

Established in 1966, Kwanzaa is celebrated each year as an opportunity for African Americans to honor African traditions of family, community, and culture. During the seven days leading up to the New Year, millions of individuals reflect on the past and renew their commitment to the principles of Kwanzaa—unity, self determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.

As family and friends gather to celebrate Kwanzaa, our citizens are reminded of the many African Americans who have contributed their talent and strength to this great Nation. I commend those observing this holiday for taking pride in your rich heritage. May the coming year be filled with the blessings of health and happiness.

Laura and I send our best wishes for a joyous Kwanzaa celebration.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

December 15

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

December 17

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Fredericksburg, VA.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

December 18

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President participated in a signing ceremony

for H.R. 3315, designating the Great Hall of the Capitol Visitor Center as Emancipation Hall.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Israel, the West Bank, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt from January 8–16, 2008.

The President declared a major disaster in Oklahoma and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms on December 8 and continuing.

The President announced his intention to nominate Irene B. Brooks to be Chairman and Samuel W. Speck to be a Commissioner of the International Joint Commission of the United States and Canada.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert G. McSwain to be Director of the Indian Health Service within the Public Health Service at the Department of Health and Human Services.

The President announced his intention to nominate Deanna Tanner Okun to be Deputy U.S. Trade Representative with the rank of Ambassador.

December 19

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in front of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, he and Vice President Dick Cheney thanked Washington, DC, firefighters who responded to a fire in the Vice President's ceremonial office.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, MD, where he visited with wounded U.S. military personnel and presented Purple Heart medals to service members. He then returned to Washington, DC.

December 20

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President visited Walter Reed Army Medical Center where he met with wounded U.S. military personnel and presented Purple Heart medals to soldiers.

December 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Camp David, MD.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted December 19

Richard A. Boucher,
of Maryland, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, for the personal rank of Career Ambassador in recognition of especially distinguished service over a sustained period.

William J. Burns,
of the District of Columbia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, for the personal rank of Career Ambassador in recognition of especially distinguished service over a sustained period.

Robert D. Jamison,
of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of Homeland Security.

Robert G. McSwain,
of Maryland, to be Director of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, for the term of 4 years, vice Charles W. Grim, resigned.

Deanna Tanner Okun,
of Idaho, to be a Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, vice Karan K. Bhatia.

Anne Woods Patterson,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, for the personal rank of Career Ambassador in recognition of especially distinguished service over a sustained period.

C. David Welch,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, for the personal rank of Career Ambassador in recognition of especially distinguished service over a sustained period.

Jamsheed K. Choksy,
of Indiana, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2014, vice Lawrence Okamura, term expiring.

Dawn Ho Delbanco,
of New York, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2014, vice Dario Fernandez-Morera, term expiring.

Gary D. Glenn,
of Illinois, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2014, vice Stephan Thernstrom, term expiring.

David Hertz,
of Indiana, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2014, vice Jewel Spears Brooker, term expiring.

Marvin Bailey Scott,
of Indiana, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for the remainder of the term expiring January 26, 2010, vice Thomas K. Lindsay, resigned.

Carol M. Swain,
of Tennessee, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2014, vice Sidney McPhee, resigned.

Withdrawn December 19

Robert D. Jamison,
of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for National Protection and Programs, Department of Homeland Security, vice George W. Foresman, resigned, which was sent to the Senate on September 4, 2007.